

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on July 13, 2006. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3 and 5-9 are currently pending in this application, with claims 2 and 5 being independent.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable subject matter

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action indicates that claims 2-3 and 5-9 contain allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, claims 2 and 5 have been placed into independent form as requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection, and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 1 and 4 have been canceled.

Moreover, claims 2 and 5 have been amended in accordance with the helpful suggestions proposed by the Examiner. Appreciation is expressed for these suggestions.

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Japanese Application Publication No. 10-297226 to Glinz et al. (Glinz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,685,927 to Hammond et al. (Hammond).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 1 and 4 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims as moot.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753. If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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